

# Injury Prevention

## *Is Everybody's Business!*

### Prevention Safety Tips:

- Always wear a safety belt when riding in a motor vehicle.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Always secure children under the age of 13 properly in the rear seat.
- Always transport children 6 and under in child safety seats.
- Do not leave children unattended in or around water.
- Test and inspect smoke alarms installed in your home each month.
- Check smoke alarm batteries every 6 months or use lithium batteries.
- Wear helmets when biking or roller-blading.
- Keep firearms in a locked area and out of the reach of children of all ages.
- Keep poisonous materials and medicines out of children's reach.
- Teach children what to do in an emergency situation.
- Keep emergency numbers near the phone in case of an emergency.
- Keep the water heater temperature at 120 degrees F.
- Use caution near stairways. Keep stairways free of objects.
- Always be aware of your surroundings when leaving malls and stores.
- Request an escort when leaving a building after dark.

[www.scdhec.gov/injury](http://www.scdhec.gov/injury)

### *Dial 911*

*for emergencies involving drowning, falls,  
fires, burns, poisonings, physical abuse or violence.*

Effective injury prevention can only occur through partnerships and collaborations.  
Listed below are organizations that have injury prevention initiatives:

Department of Disabilities and Special Needs,  
Office of Prevention (DDSN)  
[www.state.sc.us/ddsn](http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn)  
(803) 898-9600

South Carolina Safe Kids Coalition  
[www.scha.org](http://www.scha.org)  
(803) 796-1950

South Carolina Fire Marshal's Office  
[www.scfma.org](http://www.scfma.org)  
(803) 896-9800

South Carolina Consumer Affairs  
[www.state.sc.us/consumer](http://www.state.sc.us/consumer)  
(803) 734-4200 or 1-800-922-1594

Palmetto Poison Center  
[www.poison.sc.edu](http://www.poison.sc.edu)  
1-800-222-1222

Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
[www.scdps.org/ohs](http://www.scdps.org/ohs)  
1-877-349-7187

Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)  
[www.biometry.musc.edu](http://www.biometry.musc.edu)  
(843) 876-1100

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

*We promote and protect the health of the public  
and the environment.*

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## Together We Can Prevent Injuries



Division of Injury and Violence Prevention of  
The South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

# Injury Prevention

## *Saves Lives*

The mission of the Division of Injury and Violence Prevention (DIVP) of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is to *prevent and reduce the occurrence of injury and violence that impact the quality of life in South Carolina.*

To accomplish this mission, the Division works with a wide variety of public and private sector partners to provide information, consultation, prevention activities, and program development resources that enable communities to focus on education, enforcement, engineering, and economic incentives for injury and violence prevention.

Currently, the Division houses the following Injury and Violence Prevention and Surveillance programs and resources:

## Surveillance Activities

The Division's surveillance program assists with assessments, data reporting, data evaluation and capacity building.

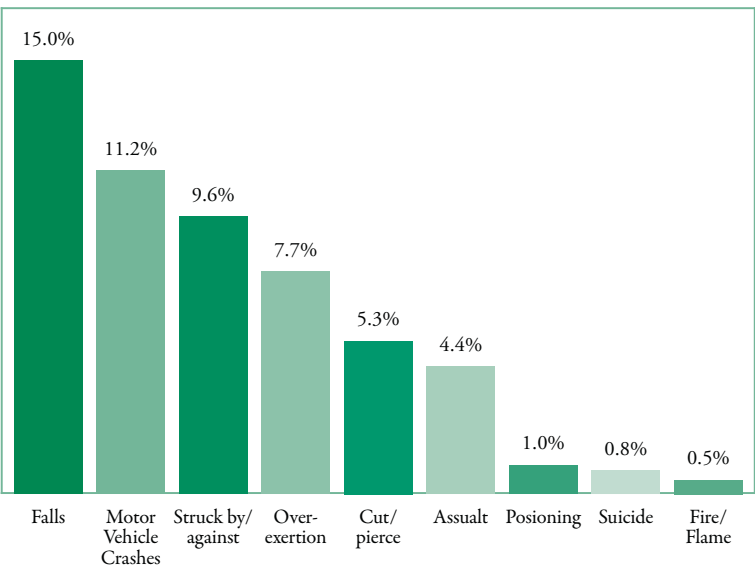
- The *SC Public Health Injury Surveillance Prevention Program [including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)]* seeks to increase knowledge about the magnitude of the problem of injury, the causes, and the predisposing factors through data.
- The *South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (SCVDRS)* collects violent death data in South Carolina as part of the National Violent Death Reporting System in order to answer critical questions of when, where, and how violent deaths occur.
- The *State Child Fatality Review Advisory Committee (CFR)* examines each case of child death in South Carolina for effective community responses to the prevention of child fatalities.

## Prevention Programs

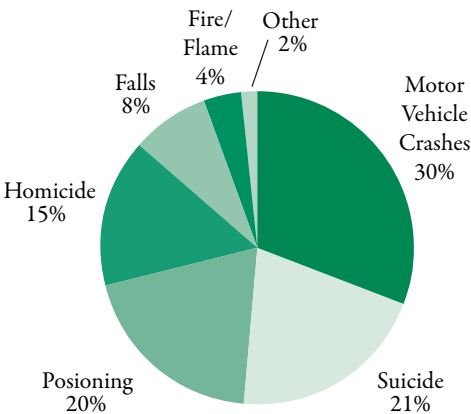
DIVP offers technical assistance, education and instruction while raising awareness of injury and prevention issues.

- The *Child Passenger Safety Program* provides education and instruction to parents, caregivers, agency staff and concerned community members on the proper use and installation of child safety seats, and participates in car safety seat check-up events statewide.
- The *Residential Fire Injury Prevention Program* provides education and installation of smoke alarms to targeted populations, and collaborates with local fire departments and the State Fire Marshal's office, as well as DHEC health regions.

Causes of Injury Emergency Department Visits, SC 2006



Causes of Injury-Related Deaths, SC 2006



## Injury Facts:

- Injuries are the leading cause of death in people ages 1-44.
- Injuries are the fourth leading cause of death in South Carolina.
- Injuries are the leading cause of years of potential life lost (more than cancer and heart disease).
- Injury is the second costliest health problem in the United States. Injuries are responsible for major national health care spending for children 5-15 years old.
- The total cost of injuries to South Carolina is approximately \$1 billion annually.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of children ages 1-19 in South Carolina.
- Nationally, the misuse of child passenger safety seats is 85%. In South Carolina, consistently more than 90% of child passenger safety seats are incorrectly installed.
- Child passenger safety seats increase the chances of surviving motor vehicle crashes: 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers.
- Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of head injury by 85% and brain injury by almost 90%.
- In South Carolina in 2003, 45% of the homes with a fire death did not have a working alarm.
- The presence of a smoke alarm in the home saves \$35 in direct medical costs and an additional \$865 in other costs.
- The burden of injuries to South Carolina in 2006 was 21,852 hospitalizations, 368,356 emergency room visits, and 3,142 deaths.